THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

HOFU Disease

5722. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a patient of HOFU a very rare blood related total disease, has been found in Jabalpur city of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which the government propose to initiate action to check the spread of this total disease ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Hofu is a mildly unstable haemoglobin variant. This is a rare haemoglobin disorder and is not a fatal disease. Subjects with this abnormal haemoglobin generally remain healthy and no preventive steps have been advised by experts.

[Translation]

Training to Pilots

5723. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on providing training to an aircraft pilot by the Air Force;

(b) the number of pilots in the Air Force as on date and the extent to which it is less than the prescribed number;

(c) the number of the pilots killed in different aircrashes during the last three years and the loss suffered by the nation as a result thereof;

(d) whether the payment of compensation has been made to the family members of each pilot killed in the aircrashes; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The training cost per pilot for each of the sub-streams is as given below :-

(i) Fighter : Rs. 5.2 crores

(ii) Transport : Rs. 1.7 crores

(iii) Helicopter : Rs. 1.0 crores

(b) Against an authorised establishment of 3,347 pilots, the actual strength as on 30th April 1997 is 2,884.

(c) The number of pilots killed in the last 3 years is 26. Provisional loss to the IAF is Rs. 170.23 crores.

(d) and (e) Barring for two pilots killed in air accident on 24.12.1996, death benefits have been sanctioned to the next of kins of all the pilots. In the case of these two pilots the documents from the next of kin are awaited.

[English]

AWHO

5724. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether army officers on deputation to any organisation relating to the welfare of ex-servicemen are paid by the ministry;

(b) the name of the agency which deals with acts of misconduct or irregularities if any, by such officials;

(c) whether government have received complaints regarding corruption in the Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO); and

(d) if so, action taken against persons found responsible for it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) There is no Army Officer on deputation with Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO) and Army Group Insurance Fund (AGIF). Some Officers are however, on Extra Regimental employment with these organisations which deal with welfare of Army as well as retired personnel. These officers are paid by the respective organisations through the procedure of book debit and continue to be under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence in disciplinary and vigilance matters.

AWHO is a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act. A complaint against AWHO alleging use of substandard material in the construction of dwelling units and over costing of the dwelling units constructed by it was considered by the State Consumer Forum and dismissed.

Plantation on National Highways from Rourkela to Sambalpur

5725. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact